R E P O R T R E S U M E S

ED 016 862 VT 004 487

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ACCREDITED PROGRAM IN DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY.

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSN., CHICAGO, ILL.

PUB DATE NOV 67

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.25 HC-$0.36 7P.

DESCRIPTORS- *STANDARDS, DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS, *HEALTH OCCUPATIONS EDUCATION, *DENTAL TECHNICIANS, *ACCREDITATION (INSTITUTIONS), PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT,

THE COUNCIL WORKS WITHIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE "BYLAWS" OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ACCREDITING. IT PREFERS THAT AN ACCREDITED CURRICULUM IN DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY BE CONDUCTED IN 2- OR 4-YEAR COLLEGE OR POST-HIGH SCHOOL INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE ACCREDITED OR ELIGIBLE FOR ACCREDITATION. AT AN EARLY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, THE INSTITUTION REQUESTING ACCREDITATION IS ASKED TO PROVIDE DETAILED REPORTS ON THE PROGRAM AND CURRICULUM PLANNING AND MAY BE GRANTED PROVISIONAL APPROVAL. REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCREDITATION ARE DISCUSSED FOR THE SPECIFIC AREAS OF ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION, TEACHING FACILITIES, FINANCES, ADMISSIONS, CURRICULUM, FACULTY, AND LIBRARY. COPIES OF THIS DOCUMENT ARE AVAILABLE FROM COUNCIL ON DENTAL EDUCATION, AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION, 211 EAST CHICAGO AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611. (BS)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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ED016862

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
Council on Dental Education

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ACCREDITED PROGRAM IN DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY

(Approved by the House of Delegates in Nov., 1967)

General: This statement sets forth the criteria which will guide the Council on Dental Education in accrediting curricula for dental laboratory technology programs in the United States. By virtue of assignments made under the Bylaws of the American Dental Association, and within the framework of accreditation policies promulgated by the National Commission on Accrediting, the Council will assume responsibility for administering the following principles and criteria.

In applying these criteria, the Council affirms its intention to conduct an accreditation program in dental laboratory technology education on principles of excellence which are in conformance with standards approved by the American Dental Association and by the sponsoring educational institutions. The Council will make every effort to aid institutions in strengthening their educational programs and will appraise each dental laboratory technology program in the light of self-defined institutional objectives.

The Council prefers that an accredited curriculum in dental laboratory technology be conducted in two- or four-year colleges, or post-high school institutions, which are accredited, or eligible for accreditation, by an agency recognized by the National Commission on Accrediting.

New programs in dental laboratory technology will be evaluated only at the request of a parent institution. Within the framework of criteria described below, the Council will make due allowance for flexibility in curriculum structure and program operation, in order to encourage educational experimentation which contributes to and increases program effectiveness.

At an early stage of development, institutions requesting program accreditation will be asked to provide detailed reports relating to the following aspects of program and curriculum planning: teaching facilities; capital and operating finances; organization and administration; admissions; administrative and teaching staff; curriculum; library services; and non-institutional facilities, such as commercial or public dental laboratories associated with the instructional program. Such reports may be prepared on accreditation forms available from the Council or on forms provided by the parent institution.

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On the basis of initial reports, the Council may grant preliminary provisional approval to new programs prior to making an initial site visit. Preliminary provisional approval of new programs represents sufficient action by the Council to permit graduates to qualify for recognition in a voluntary national recognition program which is officially approved by the American Dental Association.

The Council expects and encourages development of a variety of training programs in dental laboratory technology of shorter duration and with less comprehensive curriculum content than is being recommended for the minimum two-year programs seeking accreditation by the Council. Short courses, given over week-ends or in evening classes, continuing and advanced education programs for employed personnel are needed in most communities but should not be planned in expectation of accreditation, as in the case of the more comprehensive two-year curricula.

Organization and Administration: To be accredited by the Council, a dental laboratory technology curriculum should be administered as a recognized and separate department, division, school or college of an allied health professions training center or a parent institution. Training of dental laboratory technician students should be conducted in accordance with the policies of the parent institution. Under this heading, the Council will consider the status of the parent institution, functions and abilities of the program administrator and appointment, abilities and continuity of the faculty.

An accredited dental laboratory technology program may be conducted in a variety of educational settings such as: a department of a dental school; a separate program in an allied health profession training center in two- and four-year colleges; a technical institute; an area vocational school; or a military or federal service training center. The program administrator should be assigned authority and responsibility commensurate with administrators conducting similar allied health personnel training curricula. The program administrator should have education or experience in the practice of dentistry, or in the dental laboratory craft, to the extent required to understand and carry out education and training objectives. Duties of administrative and teaching staffs should be clearly identified and defined in relation to both department and institutional organization and function.

Teaching Facilities: Facilities and equipment for the dental laboratory technology program should be adequate to permit achievement of educational objectives. Accrediting committees will be expected to survey buildings and grounds, classrooms, laboratories, faculty

offices, student facilities, etc., and also any extra-mural facilities which are used in connection with the teaching of dental laboratory technology students. Department, institution and extra-mural facilities will be viewed in the light of their adequacy to provide sufficient working space for students, faculty and staffs to permit presentation of an effective program of technical education.

The Council will expect that school dental laboratory facilities, and commercial or public dental laboratory facilities affiliated with the parent institution, be equipped adequately to permit effective teaching of the following technical subjects: denture technics; removable partial-denture technics; crown and bridge; orthodontic, pedodontic, and ceramic technics.

Each program will require a special dental laboratory facility modeled closely along the lines of a local commercial laboratory or its counterpart in a dental school. However, ordinary science laboratories, available in most junior and senior college facilities, will be considered adequate to present instruction in the related basic and dental sciences and dental materials included in the curriculum.

Finances: Financial resources provided for the program should be adequate to fulfill acceptable educational objectives. The Council will evaluate how effectively these resources are used and administered and will wish to know the average annual cost of training per student to the institution and also, the average annual cost of training to the student.

The Council will expect assurances from parent institutions that adequate financing is available for initial capital investment in facilities, equipment, expendable and non-expendable supplies and for staff and faculty salaries. Further, reasonable assurance should be given that sufficient finances are available for annual operation of the program and also, for sustaining program continuity.

Current annual operating expenditures for dental laboratory technology programs should be available to Council accrediting committees to facilitate comparison with other similar programs on a national basis, and to permit the Council to provide data to institution officials desiring to establish new programs.

Admissions: The minimum requirement for admission to an accredited dental laboratory technology education program should be a high school diploma, or its equivalent, and demonstration of an interest

in and aptitude for dental laboratory technology. The Council urges parent institutions conducting such curricula to adopt appropriate aptitude tests to assist with the selection of qualified students. In addition, parent institutions are urged where possible, to give advanced placement credit to applicants who have completed high school pre-vocational training in dental laboratory technology.

Curriculum: Education and training of technical and managerial personnel for the dental laboratory craft to assume an essential role on the dental health team should include a carefully planned balance between general studies, special technical studies and practical experience.

The Council recommends that the dental laboratory technology curriculum be planned to extend over a period of two academic years, on a full-time basis, or 18 consecutive months, at minimum. Relationship and balance between general and technical studies shall be determined by each parent institution, with the understanding that sufficient emphasis upon practical work shall be provided to qualify graduates for beginning employment as a dental laboratory technician.

The Council does not have a minimum or maximum clock hour requirement for dental laboratory technology curricula but it will expect that the two-year curricula will be planned to correspond with the usual full-time semester, trimester, or quarter units utilized by the parent institution. The Council further recommends that a certificate in dental laboratory technology, or an appropriate associate degree be awarded to students who successfully complete the program of study.

In view of the profession'a and industry's need for basic, middle-level and advanced skills in the dental laboratory technician work force, the Council encourages program directors to develop curriculum sequence into separate stages of education which will make possible the development of cooperative curricula which include work-study schedules arranged between students and employers. The Council encourages development of evening and night school dental laboratory technology programs, also planned to include cooperative work-study experiences arranged between schools and employers. It is necessary that evening and night school programs be developed as equivalents of two-year day programs, if Council accreditation is desired.

The object of a training program for dental laboratory technicians should be the preparation of graduates who are immediately employable as dental laboratory technicians. The Council believes that all entering students, whether they eventually become general technicians or specialists, should receive instruction in the following basic principles and theory:

... orientation to dentistry and the dental health team
... anatomy of the oral structures
... tooth morphology
... science of dental materials, including the related sciences of chemistry, physics and mathematics
... articulation: fundamentals and instrumentation
... dental nomenclature and terminology
... dental written work authorizations or prescription forms
... dental laboratory procedures

Among the general studies to be included in the curriculum, it is recommended that instruction be provided in verbal and written communication and the principles of business management. The balance established between general and technical studies should be determined by each parent institution.

It is recommended that the theory and principle stage of a dental laboratory technology curriculum be planned not to exceed one academic year, or its equivalent in a night school or cooperative study program.* It is further recommended that theory and principle courses be designed to include a liberal distribution of clock hour time for laboratory exercises and demonstrations, so that students planning to continue their studies will have a good understanding of fundamentals to advance towards the objectives of becoming a general technician or a specialist.

For the second academic year of the program the Council recommends that curricula for any one, or all, of the following technical specializations be developed to include fundamentals in the following technics: denture fabrication, removable partial-denture fabrication, crown and bridge, ceramics, and orthodontics and space maintainers.

Upon completion of the first academic year of the program, the Council will expect that students will be prepared to enter the work force with a knowledge of fundamentals of the craft to include the following: nomenclature; dental materials; tooth form; articulation and set-up technics; waxing technics; and finishing technics.

The second academic year of the program should be planned to teach advanced skills and technics. The Council will expect that parent institutions seeking program accreditation will plan the second-year curriculum to include not less than two of the technical specializations previously described. For example, one parent institution

*An academic year, or its equivalent, as used in this statement is interpreted to mean two semesters, three quarters or three trimesters, as used by most parent institutions.

might limit the second-year curriculum to instruction in denture and removable partial-denture technics; another, however, might elect to combine crown and bridge and ceramics technics; still others might elect to prepare a general technician rather than a specialist technician and thus, would plan the curriculum to include all areas enumerated.

Guidelines for the development of basic and advanced technical courses in dental laboratory technology will be available, on request, from the Council's central office.

The Council will expect that each accredited program will be planned to have sufficient scope and depth to impart the basic knowledge and skill needed by the graduates to fulfill responsibilities delegated and prescribed by a dentist to a dental laboratory technician.

Faculty: The faculty of a dental laboratory technology training program should be adequate in size for the number of students enrolled. It should include the services of a supervising dentist having a regular faculty appointment. The Council will expect also the establishment of an advisory committee, composed of members of the local dental society and representatives of the dental laboratory industry. It is recommended that the advisory committee meet regularly throughout the period of study.

The Council recommends that a full-time administrative staff be established for each dental laboratory technology program. Directors may be dentists or dental laboratory technicians. If technicians, it is recommended that parent institutions give preferential consideration to the employment of persons who are qualified in a voluntary national recognition program that is approved by the American Dental Association.

The Council will expect that all administrators and faculty will be familiar with and understand the objectives of the dental laboratory technology program. The Council further urges parent institution administrators to make time available to full-time staff to continue with their scholarly development and professional advancement.

Library: In the light of the continuing advancements being made in the science of prosthetic dentistry and its related technologies, the Council recommends that adequate library facilities and services be available to dental laboratory technology students relating to these technologies. The Council will expect that department libraries will be established and conveniently located for student access.

Department libraries should include collections of reference books, periodicals and audiovisual aids pertaining to dental laboratory procedures and to the related allied dental health sciences.